(b) if so, the details of the research done and the information available in this regard; and

(c) the effects apprehended on the health and production of various crops and plants due to the deficiency of these subtle nutritious substances?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Yes, Sir. The intensive farming with high inputs and high yielding varieties have resulted into dificiencies of micro and secondary nutrients particularly zinc, sulphur and iron in different regions of the country.

(b) The Institutes of ICAR and State Agricultural Universities have been undertaking basic strategic and applied research programmes to delineate micronutrient deficient areas, develop suitable diagnostic techniques, study responses of crops and to ameliorate micronutrient disorders in soils and plants. These studies are coordinated through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Micronutrients in Soils and Plants of ICAR started in the year 1967.

Analysis of about 2,00,000 samples from 15 States and two Union Territories showed that zinc (Zn) deficiency is very widespread followed by sulphur (S) boron (B), iron (Fe), manganese (Mg), copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo) deficiences.

(c) Since the secondary and micronutrients play very important role in the growth and development of plants, thier deficiencies result into the loss of productivity, stability and sustainability of crop yields.

**Horticulture in Arunachal Pradesh**

*474. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to encourage horticulture in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amount allocated for the same during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) To promote the development of Horticulture in Arunachal Pradesh, Government of India is implementing following schemes:—

(i) Integrated Development of Tropical Temperate and Arid Fruits.

(ii) Integrated Programme for Development of Cashew nuts.

(iii) Use of plastics in agriculture

(iv) Development of commercial floriculture.

(v) Development of mushroom.

(vi) Integrated programme for the development of spices.

(vii) Development of Vegetable.

(viii) Development of Root and Tuber crops.

The following is the funds released during the last three years for the development of horticulture of Arunachal Pradesh:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Funds | released |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 142.15 |
| 1998-99 | 224.17 |
| 1999-2000 | 195.35 |

Besides the above schemes, the Government proposes to launch a Technology Mission for the integrated development of Horticulture in the North East Region including Sikkim. The mission endeavours to establish convergence and synergy among numerous ongoing government programme in the field of horticulture development to achieve horizontal and vertical integration of these programmes to ensure adequate, appropriate, timely and concurrent attention to all the links in the production, post harvest and consumption chain.

**Problems faced by Haj Pilgrims**

†*475. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government managers cause much harassment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.